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Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jan **Jaremczuk** (Poland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee, at its 3rd, 6th and 7th meetings, on 4, 5 and 15 October 1999, considered the aspect relating to the question of the status of implementation of measures taken or initiated to address appropriately the issues, observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/52/881, annex) and other related actions taken by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the Secretariat. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.3, 6 and 7).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the findings, observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audits of the procurement process in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (A/53/1018). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was introduced orally to the Committee.

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.10

4. At the 7th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Panama, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" (A/C.5/54/L.10).

5 At the same meeting the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.10 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/8 A of 31 October 1997, 52/8 C of 26 June 1998, 53/211 of 18 December 1998 and 53/228 of 8 June 1999,

Regretting the delay in the submission of the report of the Secretary-General requested in the aforementioned resolutions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the findings, observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audits of the procurement process in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission;[1]

2. *Notes with concern* that one of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services was based on incomplete information provided to the Office;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine carefully the internal audit recommendations before taking remedial action;

4. *Expresses concern* over the lack of a consistent policy for the implementation of audit recommendations on cases of fraud and financial abuse;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that audit recommendations in respect of cases of fraud and financial abuse are implemented in a consistent manner throughout the Secretariat;

6. *Calls* for further efforts to provide proper training and guidance to procurement officers in the field, especially with a view to the expansion of United Nations peacekeeping activities;

7. *Looks forward* to the report of the Secretary-General on the procurement of goods for quartering areas in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to provide additional information on the measures being taken by the Secretariat to further improve procurement activities in the

[1] A/53/1018.

field and to enhance control and accountability, within the context of the report on management irregularities causing financial losses to the Organization, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/225 of 8 June 1999, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, prior to the second part of its resumed fifty-fourth session, providing a concrete plan to correct procurement-related problems in peacekeeping operations, which should include the following:

(a) All remedial measures taken to address problems identified with the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola and other peacekeeping operations;

(b) Standardization of the corrective measures that have already been taken for all existing and future peacekeeping operations;

(c) A description of how accountability was pursued in the cases of individuals who were determined to have engaged in fraud, mismanagement or abuse, and how it will be applied in the future.